

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 1120
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-1120
Phone: (502) 582-5293 or 1-800-928-5277
E-mail: nass-ky@nass.usda.gov
and the
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Richie Farmer, Commissioner

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FEATURING: ♦ Prospective Plantings ♦ Agricultural Prices ♦ Livestock Slaughter
 ♦ Hogs & Pigs ♦ Grain Stocks

MARCH 1 PLANTING INTENTIONS

U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

Corn producers intend to plant 81.4 million acres, up 1 percent from 2004 and the largest corn acreage since 1985. Expected acreage was up from last year throughout much of the Corn Belt and southern Great Plains.

Soybean growers intend to plant an estimated 73.9 million acres, down 2 percent from last year's record high acreage. The Intentions Planting Report confirmed that Asian soybean rust has not greatly impacted farmers decisions to plant their 2005 soybean crop.

Winter wheat planted acreage for the 2005 crop was 41.6 million acres, down 4 percent from 2004.

Burley tobacco farmers intend to set 108,300 acres, 30 percent below the 2004 acreage.

KENTUCKY

Farmers intend to plant 1.29 million acres of **corn**, an increase of 80,000 acres from the 2004 crop and the largest planted acreage in five years. **Soybean** acreage was expected to be 1.35 million acres. This is up 40,000 acres from the 2004 crop and the largest acreage since the 1.52 million acres planted in 1984.

Burley tobacco growers intend to set 73,000 acres for harvest in 2005, down 33,000 acres from the 2004 crop. The acreage reduction was heavily impacted by the elimination of the tobacco quota program and price supports as farmers adjust to the tobacco buyout. Tobacco beginning with the 2005 crop season can be raised anywhere provided that the producer has a production contract to sell their tobacco production. **Kentucky** acreage set to **dark-fired tobacco** at 5,600 acres was up 400 acres from the 2004 acreage and the acreage set to **dark-air tobacco** at 3,600 acres was unchanged from a year earlier.

Winter wheat seeded in the fall of 2004 totaled a revised 420,000 acres, down 110,000 acres from the 2004 planted acreage and the smallest since the 1979 crop year of 380,000 acres. Some of the decrease in acreage resulted from fewer acres of winter wheat being plowed down prior to setting tobacco. **Grain sorghum** intended planted acreage totaled 22,000 acres, up 7,000 acres from the previous year. **Barley** acreage at 10,000 acres was up 1,000 acres from a year earlier. Farmers intend to harvest 2.30 million acres of **all hay**, down 40,000 acres from the 2004 crop season. The acreage of all hay harvested during the summer depends to a great measure on the moisture received as in a drier summer farmers will cut more hay to feed their cattle.

MARCH 1, 2005 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS-PLANTED ACRES, KENTUCKY & UNITED STATES

CROPS	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
	2004	Ind. 2005	05 % of 04	2004	Ind. 2005	05 % of 04
	(Thousand Acres)		Percent	(Thousand Acres)		Percent
Corn	1,210	1,290	107	80,930	81,413	101
Soybeans	1,310	1,350	103	75,208	73,910	98
All Sorghum	15	22	147	7,486	7,400	99
All Hay 1/	2,340	2,300	98	61,916	62,940	102
All Tobacco 1/	114.8	82.2	72	409.1	319.9	78
Burley Tobacco 1/	106.0	73.0	69	154.7	108.3	70
All Wheat 2/	530	420	79	59,674	58,592	98
Barley 2/	9	10	111	4,527	3,974	88

1/ Harvested acreage. 2/ Includes acreage planted preceding fall.

KENTUCKY CROP AND CATTLE PRICES INCREASED FROM FEBRUARY

Crop prices received by **Kentucky** farmers were up while livestock prices were mixed. Cattle and milk prices were up as hog prices were down.

Steers and heifers 500 lbs. and over at mid-March averaged \$104.00 per cwt., up \$7.00 from the February price and \$15.00 from March a year earlier. This was the highest steer and heifer price since August 2004. **Beef cow** prices averaged \$51.00 per cwt. at mid-month, up \$1.00 from the previous month, \$7.00 from a year earlier and the highest price in six months. **Calves** less than 500 lbs. for mid-March averaged \$127.00 per cwt., an increase of \$10.00 from February and \$19.00 from March 2004. The mid-month calf price was the highest on record.

Barrows and gilts at mid-March averaged \$48.00 per cwt., a decrease of \$2.00 from February while up \$1.00 from March a year ago. Prices were the lowest in 11 months since establishing a recent high of \$57.00 in May 2004. **Sows** at \$44.00 per cwt. were down \$3.00 from February but up \$4.00 from a year earlier.

Kentucky **sheep and lambs** are being added to monthly prices. February sheep price was \$50.00 per cwt. and the lamb price was \$116.00 per cwt.

The price of **all milk** for mid-March was \$16.70 per cwt. This was up 80 cents from February and \$1.00 from the previous year. The final monthly mid-month milk price will vary from the projected mid-month price due to price changes announced by Milk Marketing Orders, actual milk fat content and quantity sold by class.

The **corn** mid-March price was \$2.15 per bushel, up two cents from February while down 75 cents from March 2004. The **soybean** price for mid-March was \$6.35 per bushel, an increase of 69 cents from a month earlier but down \$2.69 from the previous year. The **winter wheat** price was \$3.40 per bushel, up 47 cents from February while down 50 cents from a year earlier. The mid-March was the highest in 11 months.

The preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 118, based on 1990-92=100, is 4 points (3.5 percent) above the February Index. The Crop Index is up 7 points (6.6 percent) while the Livestock Index is up 3 points (2.5 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, soybeans, lettuce, and corn. Lower prices were received for strawberries, grapefruit, apples, and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of strawberries, dairy, broilers, and tomatoes offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, oranges, and cotton. This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 3 points (2.5 percent) from March 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 122, is 4 points (3.4 percent) above last month but down 1 point (0.8 percent) from March 2004.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		MAR 2004	FEB 2005	MAR 2005	MAR 2005
		Entire Month		Mid-Month a/	
All Corn b/ c/	Bu.	2.90	2.13	2.15	2.03
Soybeans b/	Bu.	9.04	5.66	6.35	6.28
Winter Wheat b/	Bu.	3.90	2.93	3.40	3.44
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	100.00	105.00	110.00	96.40
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	58.00	61.00	60.00	70.40
All Hogs	Cwt.	46.70	49.90	47.80	51.50
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	47.00	50.00	48.00	51.80
Sows	Cwt.	40.00	47.00	44.00	43.80
All Beef Cattle d/	Cwt.	78.20	85.70	91.30	91.90
Steers & Heifers e/	Cwt.	89.00	97.00	104.00	96.30
Cows	Cwt.	44.00	50.00	51.00	53.60
Calves f/	Cwt.	108.00	117.00	127.00	132.00
Sheep	Cwt.	--	50.00	--	--
Lambs	Cwt.	--	116.00	--	--
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	15.70	15.90	16.70	15.60
Hog-Corn Ratios g/	Bu.	16.1	23.4	22.2	25.4

a/ Preliminary. b/ Includes contract sales paid during month. c/ Includes yellow and white corn. d/ "Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. e/ 500 lbs. and over. f/ Under 500 lbs. g/ Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.42 billion pounds in February, up 1 percent from the 3.40 billion pounds produced in February 2004. February 2004 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. February 2005 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 1.77 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.34 million head, down 4 percent from February 2004. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,254 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.10 million head, 3 percent above February 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION 1/

Type	Feb. 2004	Jan. 2005	Feb. 2005	Feb. 05 % of	
				Feb. 2004	Jan. 2005
Million Pounds			Percent		
Beef	1,804	*1,917	1,767	98	92
Veal	14.5	13.3	12.1	84	91
Pork	1,571	1,704	1,629	104	96
Lamb & Mutton	14.8	14.4	15.2	103	105
Total U.S.	3,405	*3,648	3,423	101	94
Total Kentucky	40.3	40.2	38.6	96	96

1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter. *Revised.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 2004 & 2005 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	1.6	1.6	1,370	1,421	860	914
Hogs	199.5	188.3	52,728	50,255	264	267
Sheep & Lambs	0.8	0.9	103	109	128	124
United States						
Cattle	2,429.2	2,341.2	2,993,963	2,936,554	1,233	1,254
Hogs	7,887.4	8,103.8	2,112,505	2,187,417	268	270
Sheep & Lambs	212.5	215.0	29,601	30,125	139	140

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

MARCH 1 HOG & PIG INVENTORY

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2005, was 59.9 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from December 1, 2004.

Breeding inventory, at 5.94 million head, was down slightly from both March 1, 2004 and last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.0 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The December 2004-February 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 25.5 million head, was up 2 percent from 2004, and up 4 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, up 1 percent from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.94 for the

December 2004-February 2005 period, compared to 8.85 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.87 million sows farrowed during the March-May 2005 quarter, unchanged from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2004, but 1 percent below 2003. Intended farrowings for June-August 2005, at 2.88 million sows, are down 1 percent from the same period in both 2004 and 2003.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 37 percent last year.

HOGS AND PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBERS BY CLASS & WEIGHT GROUPS MARCH 1, 2004 - 2005, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

State	TOTAL		BREEDING		MARKET		MARKET HOGS							
	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	Under 60 lbs.		60-119 lbs		120-179 lbs		180 lbs +	
	1,000	% of	1,000	% of	1,000	% of	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Head	2004	Head	2004	Head	2004	(1,000 Head)							
AR	330	105	85	100	245	107	135	145	30	35	30	30	35	35
CO	810	117	140	100	670	122	315	365	60	115	65	85	110	105
IL	4,000	104	430	105	3,570	104	1,260	1,360	820	830	750	770	610	610
IN	3,000	95	290	97	2,710	95	1,060	1,000	660	650	620	570	510	490
IA	16,200	105	1,080	104	15,120	105	4,510	4,430	4,000	4,230	3,250	3,490	2,700	2,970
KS	1,700	99	155	91	1,545	100	530	550	285	260	310	285	425	450
MI	920	99	100	100	820	99	300	325	205	190	175	160	150	145
MN	6,300	97	590	98	5,710	97	2,250	2,230	1,410	1,370	1,280	1,270	960	840
MO	2,850	98	330	100	2,520	98	1,270	1,190	510	520	470	480	320	330
NE	2,750	96	355	99	2,395	96	980	970	640	600	470	470	400	355
NC	9,700	98	1,010	99	8,690	98	3,500	3,410	2,180	2,030	1,800	1,850	1,400	1,400
OH	1,520	100	160	100	1,360	100	555	570	315	300	290	310	200	180
OK	2,420	103	360	103	2,060	103	940	980	310	350	250	260	500	470
PA	1,100	107	105	88	995	109	300	290	240	290	210	230	160	185
SD	1,360	109	145	100	1,215	110	385	430	245	295	265	270	210	220
TX	920	100	95	86	825	102	265	295	180	200	195	160	170	170
WI	440	98	50	91	390	99	155	145	90	95	80	85	70	65
Other ^{1/}	3,579	97	461	99	3,117	97	1,113	1,132	774	727	695	655	648	604
U.S.	59,899	101	5,941	100	53,957	101	19,823	19,817	12,954	13,087	11,205	11,430	9,578	9,624

^{1/}Individual State estimates not available for the 33 other States. Kentucky included in Other States.

LARGEST KENTUCKY CORN STOCKS IN THREE YEARS

Kentucky corn stocks totaled 61.9 million bushels on March 1, 2005. This was up 20 percent from the 51.5 million bushels stored on March 1, 2004. Corn stored on farms totaled 41.0 million bushels, up 11.0 million bushels from a year earlier and the largest on farm stocks since 2001. Corn stored in off-farm facilities, 20.9 million bushels, was down 596,000 bushels from March 1, 2004. Off-farm facilities included grain stored at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. Soybean and wheat stocks estimates in Kentucky were published only for off-farm stocks. On farm stocks were not estimated for the State. Kentucky off-farm stocks of **soybeans** totaled 4.89 million bushels, the smallest since March 1, 1985. Off-farm stocks of **all wheat** was 6.34 million bushels, an increase of 2.40 million bushels from a year earlier and the largest on record. Wheat off-farm records started in 1946. Off-farm stocks of **grain sorghum** and **barley** were not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 6.75 billion bushels, up 28 percent from March 1, 2004. This is the highest March 1 stocks level since 1988. Of the total stocks, 4.14 billion bushels were stored on farms, up 37 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.62 billion bushels, were up 17 percent from a year ago. **Soybeans** stored in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 1.38 billion bushels, up 52 percent from March 1, 2004. Soybean stocks stored on farms were estimated at 795 million bushels, up 123 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 586 million bushels, were up 7 percent from last March. **All wheat** stored in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 981 million bushels, down 4 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks were estimated at 305 million bushels, up 18 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 676 million bushels, were down 11 percent from a year ago.

KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES STOCKS OF GRAIN, MARCH 1, 2005 WITH COMPARISONS

CROP	POSITION	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
		March 1 2004	Dec. 1 2004	March 1 2005	March 1 2004	Dec. 1 2004	March 1 2005
(Thousand Bushels)							
Corn	On-Farm	30,000	80,000	41,000	3,030,000	6,144,000	4,137,000
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	21,483	22,967	20,887	2,241,459	3,306,598 <u>5/</u>	2,616,738
	Total	51,483	102,967	61,887	5,271,459	9,450,598 <u>5/</u>	6,753,738
Sorghum	On-Farm	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	21,000	78,700	33,400
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	137,652	203,505 <u>5/</u>	169,989
	Total	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	158,652	282,205 <u>5/</u>	203,389
Oats	On-Farm	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	45,600	60,400	43,500
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	86	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	49,414	44,513 <u>5/</u>	39,026
	Total	86	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	95,014	104,913 <u>5/</u>	82,526
Barley	On-Farm	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	51,700	130,700	79,680
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	101,186	115,276 <u>5/</u>	111,001
	Total	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	152,886	245,976 <u>5/</u>	190,681
All Wheat	On-Farm	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	257,890	531,020	304,710
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	3,933	7,334	6,335	762,727	899,306 <u>5/</u>	676,304
	Total	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	1,020,617	1,430,326 <u>5/</u>	981,014
Soybeans	On-Farm	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	355,900	1,300,000	795,000
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	6,944	11,088	4,887	549,947	1,004,640 <u>5/</u>	585,974
	Total	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	905,847	2,304,640 <u>5/</u>	1,380,974

^{1/} Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. ^{2/} Kentucky is a minor State, not published separately. ^{3/} On-Farm oat stocks estimates not made. ^{4/} Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. ^{5/} Revised.

Internet Access: Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>